

COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR IMPROVING KIDNEY FUNCTION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Materials and methods for improving kidney function or enhancing proliferation or survival of kidney tubule epithelial cells or epithelial cell precursors in a mammal are disclosed. The methods comprise administering to the mammal a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a zveg4 protein or a zveg4 protein-encoding polynucleotide in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable delivery vehicle. Zveg4 proteins include, for example, disulfide-bonded dimers of two polypeptide chains, each comprising residues 258-370 of SEQ ID NO:2.